

First zoea of *Dissodactylus glasselli* Rioja and  
new range and host records for species of  
*Dissodactylus* (Brachyura: Pinnotheridae), with a  
discussion of host-symbiont biogeography

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**Abstract.**—*Dissodactylus glasselli* Rioja, is a small pinnotherid crab living as an ectosymbiont on sand dollars of the American Pacific coast. The first zoea of *D. glasselli* is described in detail and compared to that of other species within the *Dissodactylus* complex. Morphometrically the larva differs from those of the sympatric species *D. nitidus* Smith, *D. lockingtoni* Glassell, and *D. xantusi* Glassell, in the relative length of carapace spines. The zoea of *D. glasselli* most closely resembles that of *D. mellitae* (Rathbun) from the Atlantic, the two being considered trans-isthmian geminate species. A geographic range extension of *Dissodactylus lockingtoni* is reported beyond the Gulf of California to Costa Rica, where it occurs on *Mellita kanakoffi* Durham, not reported previously as a host species. The range of *Dissodactylus glasselli* is extended southward from El Salvador to Costa Rica and it is reported for the first time on the hosts *M. kanakoffi* and *Encope wetmorei* Clark. *Dissodactylus mellitae* was found on the new host *Encope aberans* Martens in the Gulf of Mexico.

Members of the *Dissodactylus* complex, comprising the genera *Dissodactylus* Smith, 1870 and *Clypeasterophilus* Campos & Griffith, 1990, are known as symbionts of echinoids in tropical and subtropical regions of the Americas (Schmitt et al. 1973). *Dissodactylus* is represented by four Atlantic and five Pacific species, and *Clypeasterophilus* by three and one species, respectively. Larval development is known for five Atlantic species (Pohle & Telford 1981b, 1983; Pohle 1984, Marques & Pohle 1995a, 1995b), and for Pacific species, larvae of *D. lockingtoni* Glassell, 1935, *D. xantusi* Glassell, 1936 and *D. nitidus* Smith, 1870 have been described (Pohle 1989, 1994). *Dissodactylus glasselli* overlaps geographically with the latter three sympatric species in the southern parts of the Gulf of California. The first zoea of *D. glasselli* Rioja, 1944 is described in this pa-

per and compared to that of other species within the *Dissodactylus* complex. New sand dollar hosts are reported for *Dissodactylus glasselli*, *D. lockingtoni* and *D. mellitae* (Rathbun, 1900), and the occurrence of *D. lockingtoni* has been established outside the Gulf of California.

#### Materials and Methods

During June to July 1992, first zoeae of *Dissodactylus glasselli* were obtained from a number of females collected along the Pacific coast of Costa Rica. Individual rearing techniques used to culture larvae, although successful for other species of *Dissodactylus* and *Clypeasterophilus* (Pohle & Telford 1981b, Pohle 1984, 1989; Marques & Pohle 1995a, 1995b), were not successful in this case. None of the larvae developed beyond

Table 1.—Dimensions (mm) of zoea 1 structures of *Dissodactylus glasselli* Rioja and other selected species.

Species	Spine length				Antennal length	Carapace length
	Rostral	Dorsal	Lateral	Rostrodorsal		
<i>Dissodactylus glasselli</i>	0.35 ± 0.02 (0.32–0.37)	0.20 ± 0.02 (0.17–0.22)	0.20 ± 0.01 (0.17–0.22)	0.88 ± 0.04 (0.81–0.94)	0.10 ± 0.01 (0.09–0.10)	0.37 ± 0.01 (0.36–0.39)
<i>D. lockingtoni</i> <sup>1</sup>	0.26 ± 0.01	0.16 ± 0.01	0.14 ± 0.01	0.71 ± 0.03	0.10 ± 0.01	0.35 ± 0.01
<i>D. nitidus</i> <sup>2</sup>	0.24 ± 0.02	0.12 ± 0.01	0.12 ± 0.01	0.68 ± 0.02	0.10 ± 0.01	0.36 ± 0.01
<i>D. xantusi</i> <sup>1</sup>	0.26 ± 0.01	0.12 ± 0.01	0.13 ± 0.01	0.65 ± 0.02	0.08 ± 0.01	0.37 ± 0.01
<i>D. mellitae</i> <sup>3</sup>	0.30 ± 0.02	0.21 ± 0.01	0.16 ± 0.02	0.71 ± 0.01	0.11 ± 0.01	0.32 ± 0.01
<i>D. mellitae</i> <sup>2</sup>	0.30 ± 0.02	0.24 ± 0.01	0.20 ± 0.01	0.87 ± 0.02	0.10 ± 0.01	0.36 ± 0.01

Note: Values are given as the mean ± standard deviation, with range in parentheses for *D. glasselli*.

<sup>1</sup> From Pohle (1994); <sup>2</sup> from Pohle (1989); <sup>3</sup> from Marques & Pohle (1995b).

the first zoea. Selection of the most lively larvae, addition of antibiotics and the use of alternate food organisms, such as oyster larvae and fertilized sand dollar eggs, did not change the outcome.

Ten specimens were measured and used for morphological description. The description of setae follows Pohle & Telford (1981a), but here includes only analysis by light microscopy, using an Olympus BH-2 microscope with Nomarski Differential Interference Contrast and camera lucida. Measurements follow Pohle & Telford (1981a). Specimens of the first zoeal stage have been deposited at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

## Results

Eggs of *Dissodactylus glasselli* were incubated by crabs for 11–13 days at 32°C. Larval morphometrics are given in Table 1.

### First Zoea (Fig. 1)

**Carapace** (Fig. 1A).—With long rostral, dorsal and lateral spines. Thickened posterior and ventral margin lacking setae. Eyes sessile. Two simple setae flanking dorsal spine. Chromatophores on each side of carapace posterior to eyes, on ventrolateral margin and base of antennules; single chromatophores located posterior to base of dorsal spine, frontally between eyes and dor-

sally on gut; abdominal somites 1–5 with paired melanophores; single chromatophore on labrum, mandibles and basipodites of first maxillipedes.

**Abdomen** (Fig. 1B).—Five somites and telson. Somite 1 naked, somites 2 and 3 with pair of dorsolateral spines; somites 2–5 with pair of simple setae dorsally.

**Telson** (Fig. 1C).—Bifurcated, with proximal minute furcal spine. Furcal shafts spinulous, except tips. Furcal arch with 3 plumodenticulate setae on either side of deep median depression. Denticulets present in clusters on ventral and dorsal surface.

**Antennule** (Fig. 1D).—Unsegmented, smooth, conical. Terminally with 1 short and 2 long aesthetascs.

**Antenna** (Fig. 1E).—Elongate, uniramous. Tapered protopodite with 2 rows of spinules distally.

**Maxillule** (Fig. 1F).—Coxal endite bearing 4 graded plumodenticulate setae and proximal microtrichia. Basal endite with proximal microtrichia, 3 terminal plumodenticulate cuspidate setae and 2 subterminal plumodenticulate setae. Two-segmented endopodite with 4 terminal plumodenticulate setae.

**Maxilla** (Fig. 1G).—Coxal endite single-lobed, inflated, with semicircle of 4 plumose setae flanked by single proboscate (sensu Pohle & Telford 1981a) seta; scattered microtrichia. Basal endite with 4 plumodenticulate setae on either side of slight inden-

tation; microtrichia present. Endopodite unsegmented, with 3 terminal plumodenticulate setae and marginal microtrichia. Scaphognathite with 4 densely plumose setae marginally, tapering to sharp terminal process bearing microtrichia.

*Maxilliped 1* (Fig. 1H).—Coxopodite with a developing seta. Basipodite with 10 plumodenticulate setae arranged in four groups of 2, 2, 3, 3 proximally to distally. Five segmented endopodite with 2, 2, 1, 2, 4 + 1 setae proximally to distally; all plumodenticulate except single simple seta on segments 1, 2, and 5. Exopodite with 4 long natatory plumose setae.

*Maxilliped 2* (Fig. 1I).—Coxopodite naked. Basipodite with 4 plumodenticulate setae. Endopodite 2-segmented, first segment naked, distal segment with 4–5 plumodenticulate setae. Exopodite with 4 long natatory plumose setae.

*Maxilliped 3*.—Not discernible.

*Pereiopods*.—May be present as minute buds.

*Pleopods*.—Absent.

#### Range Extension and New Hosts for Species of *Dissodactylus*

##### *Dissodactylus lockingtoni* Glassell, 1935

*Dissodactylus lockingtoni* Glassell, 1935: 100, pl. 27, figs. 5–8, text-fig. 68 (type locality, Punta Peñasco, Sonora, Mexico).—Griffith 1987a: 401, 413, 419, figs. 8B, 9B, 11B, 13B, 14B; 1987b: 2292–2310. *D. smithi* Rioja, 1944: 149, figs. 1–6, 11–15 (type locality, Playa San Benito, Chiapas, 50 km from Tapachula, Mexico).

*Material examined*.—Puntarenas Beach, Puntarenas, Costa Rica, 9°56'N, 84°48'W; 2 Jul 1992, free-diving 0.5–1 m, sand bottom, 1 male cw 3.6 mm on *Mellita kanakoffi* Durham, 1961.—Puntarenas Beach, Puntarenas, Costa Rica, 9°56'N, 84°48'W; 18 Jul 1992, low intertidal, sand bottom, 3 females cw 5.4, 5.1 and 4.8 mm on *M. kanakoffi*.—Puntarenas Beach, Puntarenas, Costa Rica, 9°56'N, 84°48'W; 7 Aug 1992,

intertidal, low tide 0 m, sand bottom, 4 females cw 4.6, 5.0, 5.1 and 5.3 mm on *M. kanakoffi*.

*Previous range records*.—Punta Peñasco, Sonora, Mexico; “San Felipe, Gulf of California and Punta Peñasco . . . undoubtedly ranges throughout the Gulf of California” (Glassell 1935). Campo et pescador, North of San Felipe (31°04'N, 114°50'W) (Campos et al. 1992). La Choya Bay, Punta Peñasco, Sonora, Mexico (Pohle 1994).

*Previous host record*.—*Encope californica* Verrill, 1870; *E. grandis* Agassiz, 1841; *E. micropora* Agassiz, 1841; *Mellita longifissa* Michelin, 1858 (Glassell 1935).

*Remarks*.—The host *Encope californica* Verril listed by Glassell (1935) is presently considered a junior synonym of *E. micropora* (cf. Brusca 1980) but both are probably separate species (M. Telford, in litt.).

##### *Dissodactylus glasselli* Rioja, 1944

*D. glasselli* Rioja, 1944: 150, fig. 7–10, 16–21 (type locality, Playa San Benito, near Tapachula, Chiapas, Mexico).—Griffith 1987a: 413, 420, figs. 8H, 9H, 11H, 13H; 1987b: 2292–2310.

*Material examined*.—Manuel Antonio National Park, Manuel Antonio, Costa Rica, 9°06'N, 84°11'W; 20 June 1992, SCUBA diving 1.5–3 m, sand bottom, 3 males cw 3.6, 3.6 and 3.8 mm, 3 females cw 3.3, 4.2 and 4.2 mm on *Mellita kanakoffi* and *Encope wetmorei* Clark, 1946.—Brasilito Beach, Guanacastes, Costa Rica, 10°25'N, 85°47'W; 22 Jun 1992, SCUBA diving 1–3 m, sand bottom, 4 males cw 2.4, 3.2, 3.9 and 4.0 mm, 2 females cw 3.4 and 4.6 mm on *Encope micropora*.—Brasilito Beach, Guanacastes, Costa Rica, 10°25'N, 85°47'W; 13 Jul 1992, SCUBA diving 1–3 m, sand bottom, 3 females cw 3.0, 3.8 and 5.0 mm on *Encope micropora*.

*Previous range records*.—Playa San Benito, near Tapachula, Chiapas, Mexico (Glassell 1935). Puerto el Triunfo, El Salvador (Griffith 1987a).

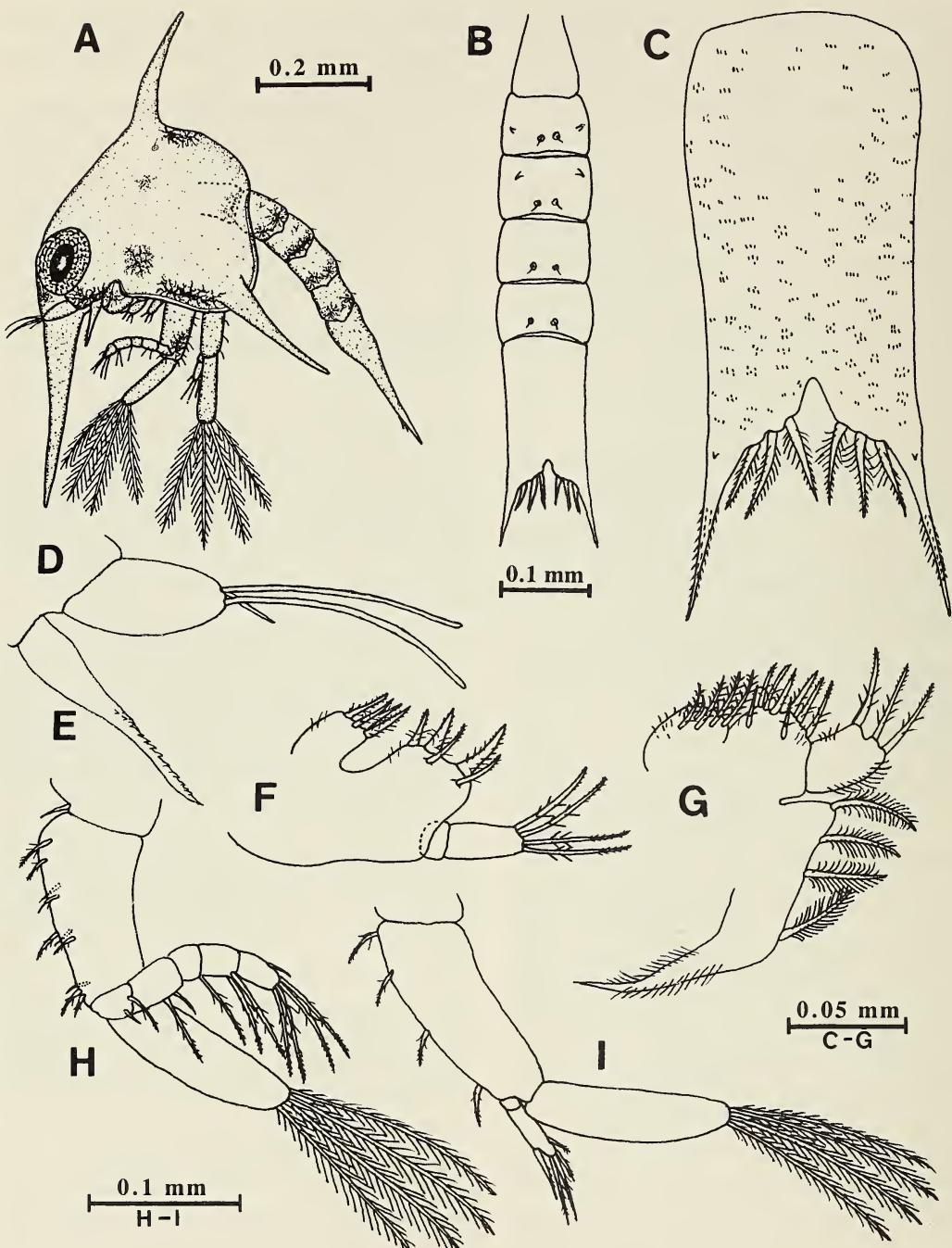


Fig. 1. First zoea of *Dissodactylus glasselli* Rioja, 1944. A, lateral view; B, dorsal view of abdomen; C, telson; D, antennule; E, antenna; F, maxillule; G, maxilla; H, maxilliped 1; I, maxilliped 2.

*Previous host record.*—*Mellita longifissa* Michelin (Rioja 1944).

*Remarks.*—The specimens collected at Brasilito Beach were sharing the same host with *Dissodactylus nitidus* Smith, 1870.

*Dissodactylus mellitae* (Rathbun, 1900)

*Echinophilus mellitae* Rathbun, 1900: 590  
(type locality, Pensacola, Florida).

*D. mellitae* Rathbun, 1901: 22.—Griffith 1987a: 413, 420, figs. 8I, 9I, 11I, 13I, 14G; 1987b: 2292–2310.

*Material examined.*—East beach, Desoto Fort, St. Petersburg, Florida, Gulf of Mexico; 20 Aug 1992, free-diving 2–3.5 m, sand bottom, 2 females cw 4.0 and 4.2 mm on *Encope aberans* Martens, 1867.

*Previous host records.*—*Echinorachnius parma* (Lamarck, 1816), *Mellita quinquesperforata* (Leske, 1778) (cf. Rathbun 1901, Telford 1982, Bell & Stancyk 1983, Bell 1984, 1988); *Mellita tenuis* Clark, 1940 (Marques & Pohle 1995b); *Encope michelini* Agassiz, 1841; and *Clypeaster subdepressus* (Gray, 1825) (cf. Williams et al. 1968).

Comparison of *D. glasselli* Larvae with those of Other Species of the *Dissodactylus* Complex

Meristic characteristics of the first zoea of *Dissodactylus glasselli* are identical to other species of this genus. There are, however, some morphometric differences between *D. glasselli* and the three other sympatric Pacific species, *D. nitidus* Smith, 1870, *D. lockingtoni* Glassell, 1935 and *D. xantusi* Glassell, 1936 (Pohle 1989, 1994). While the first zoea of the latter three are almost indistinguishable, *Dissodactylus glasselli* differs by significantly longer ( $P < 0.01$ ) carapace spines (Table 1). Carapace length, however, overlaps with the other Pacific species. The closely related *Clypeasterophilus ususfructus* (Griffith, 1987a), which has recently been removed from *Dissodactylus* (Campos & Griffith 1990), is also known

from near the mouth of the Gulf of California (Hendrickx 1990). Although larvae of *C. ususfructus* are unknown, it is expected that the zoeae will differ from *Dissodactylus* by the absence of dorsolateral spines on abdominal somite 3, as known for *Clypeasterophilus stebbingi* (Rathbun, 1918) and *C. rugatus* (Bouvier, 1917) (cf. Marques & Pohle 1995a, Pohle 1984).

Larvae of *D. glasselli* resemble most closely those of *D. mellitae* from the Atlantic (Marques & Pohle 1995b), *D. glasselli* differing only by the relatively longer rostral and lateral spines (Table 1). The similarity between these two species supports the conclusion by Griffith (1987b), based on an analysis of adult synapomorphies, that these are twin, or geminate, species. Trans-isthmian pairs of closely related species have been described for many taxa, including about 45% of extant decapods of Panama (Abele 1976). Under vicariant biogeographic theory (Rosen 1975), these species evolved by allopatric speciation, following the closing of the Panama seaway. The relatively recent separation accounts for the similarity of eastern Pacific and Caribbean species, such as that seen between *Dissodactylus mellitae* and *D. glasselli*.

#### Host-symbiont Biogeography

*Dissodactylus lockingtoni* has never before been reported outside the Gulf of California and thus its occurrence in Costa Rica represents about a 20° southward extension. The hosts *Mellita longifissa* and *Encope micropora* extend further south to Panama and Chile, respectively (Ghio 1988). Thus, the geographic range of *Dissodactylus lockingtoni* may also extend beyond Costa Rica.

*Dissodactylus glasselli* was only known from its type locality in Mexico until Griffith (1987a) discovered a specimen amongst a lot in the Smithsonian collection identified as *D. lockingtoni* from El Salvador. The record in Costa Rica represents a 3° southward extension. The hosts *Mellita longifissa* and *M. kanakoffi* both extend further south to

at least Panama (Harold & Telford 1990), indicating that *D. glasselli* may also be found there.

In terms of host specificity, *Dissodactylus mellitae* is the most generalist species within the *Dissodactylus* complex, inhabiting echinoids from three distinct clypeasteroid families. Other Atlantic species of *Dissodactylus*, except for *D. primitivus* and *D. schmitti* which live on heart urchins (Griffith 1987a), can be found on mellitid sand dollars and two species of *Clypeaster*. In contrast, the Pacific species of this genus have never been found on any of the *Clypeaster* species occurring in the area.

In contrast to *Dissodactylus*, Atlantic and Pacific species of *Clypeasterophilus* are found exclusively on *Clypeaster* (Griffith 1987a, Hendrickx 1990). The following evidence suggests that species of *Clypeasterophilus* are also more host dependent than those of *Dissodactylus*: 1) an analysis of gut contents of *Clypeasterophilus rugatus* and three species of *Dissodactylus* by Telford (1982) showed that only *C. rugatus* fed exclusively on host tissue, whereas *D. primitivus* took no more than about half of its food from the spatangoid host; 2) larvae of *Clypeasterophilus* (Pohle 1984, Marques & Pohle 1995a) could not complete larval development in absence of a host, whereas *Dissodactylus primitivus* could (Pohle & Telford 1983).

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